

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 271200Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9643

INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR,PBOR, SG,GA, ECIN

SUBJ: SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ACCORD WITH GAMBIA ON
BORDER PROBLEMS.

REF: DAKAR 0438

SUMMARY:IN PRESS CONF. AFTER RETURN FROM HIS JAN 22 VISIT
TO BANJUL, SENEGALESE FORMIN ASSANE SECK ANNOUNCED THATT
GAMBIA AND SENEGAL HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ISSUES WHICH HAD
HITHERTO DIVIDED THEM. SECK SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN LONG AND
HARD.DIFFICULT PROBLEMS CONCERNING SEA BOUNDARIES, LAND BOUNDARIES,
AND CONSTRUCTION OF SENEGAL RIVER BRIDGE WERE SOLVED ONLY AFTER
SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS BY GAMBIAN AND SENEGALESE CHIEFS OF
STATE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON BORDER QUESTIONS,SECK SAID CONCESSIONS HAD BEEN MADE ON BOTH
SIDES AND COMPLETE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. SECK SAID THAT
AGREEMENT HAD ALSO BEEN REACHED TO CONSTRUCT TOLL BRIDGE ACROWW
GAMBIA RIVER. WORK WOULD COMMENCE, HE ADDED, IN SEVERAL MONTHS.

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SECK NOTED THAT FIRST MEETING OF PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND PRES.

JAWARA AS PART OF PROCESS LEADING TO SOLUTION THESE DISPUTES WAS
HELD IN JUN 72, AT RABAT OAU SUMMIT.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT GAMBIA'S DESIRE TO JOIN OMVS,
SECK POINTED OUT THAT OMVS WAS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION,
NOT POLITICAL ONE. GAMBIA DID NOT SEEM TO FALL WITHIN
ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH OMVS WAS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP. NEVERTHELESS,
SECK SAID, GAMBIA PROPOSAL TO JOIN OMVS WOULD BE REVIEWED BY PRES.
SENGHOR (REFTEL). SECK SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO
CREATE NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IN WHICH GAMBIA, MALI, MAUR-
ITANIA AND SENEGAL WOULD JOIN TOGETHER. HE ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY O
F BI-
LATERAL SENEGALESE-GAMBIA ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
GAMBIA RIVER.

3. WHEN SECK WAS ASKED IF PRES. SENGHOR WOULD BE MAKING STATE
VISIT TO GAMBIA NOW, HE REPLIED THAT MATTER HAD NOT COME UP
DURING HIS TALKS WITH GAMBIANS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT JAWARA
HAD VISITED DAKAR AND ONLY NATURAL THAT SENGHOR
WOULD RETURN VISIT, ALTHOUGH NO DATES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED
YET. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE MANY EXCHANGES OF VISITS
IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. COMMENT: DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW GAMBIA BRIDGE CAN GET OFF
GROUND IN A FEW MONTHS, BUT SECK WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROJECT
WHICH HAS LONG BEEN DESIRED BY SENEGAL TO HELP END ISOLATION
OF CASAMANCE REGION.
AGGREY

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